

Committee. The conditions of Associate Membership as to entrance fee, subscription and otherwise, shall be the same as for Members save that Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote at any General or other Meetings of the Club attended by them, nor be entitled to serve on the Committee, nor receive gratis a copy of the *Bulletin* of the Club. On signifying their desire, however, to the Editor they will be provided with one copy of the *Bulletin* reporting the Proceedings of any Meeting at which they are present, at a price, not exceeding 2/6, as the Committee shall from time to time determine. A Member, who ceases to be a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, shall also cease to be a full member of the Club.

ORDINARY MEETING.

The four-hundred and ninety-second Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W.7, on Wednesday, 15th February, 1950, following a dinner at 6.30 P.M.

Chairman : Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN.

Members present :—Miss C. ACLAND ; Dr. D. A. BANNERMAN ; Major N. A. G. H. BEAL ; G. BESEK ; Mrs. BOYD WATT ; Mrs. G. M. CHADWYCK-HEALEY ; Miss T. CLAY ; C. DE WORMS ; C. T. DALGETY ; R. P. DONALDSON ; J. FERGUSON LEES ; Miss J. M. FERRIER ; R. S. FITTER ; W. E. GLEGG ; Miss C. GODMAN ; Miss E. M. GODMAN ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Editor*) ; Dr. J. M. HARRISON ; P. A. D. HOLLOM ; K. P. KEYWOOD ; Dr. A. LANDBOROUGH-THOMSON ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW ; Mrs. PERCY LOWE ; J. M. McNEILL ; Mrs. PHIPPS ; C. W. MACKWORTH PRAED ; Dr. W. A. RICHARDS ; BRIAN ROBERTS ; Miss G. M. RHODES (*Hon. Secretary*) ; PETER SCOTT ; D. SETH-SMITH ; MAJOR SIMMONDS ; MAJOR A. G. L. SLADEN ; Lt.-Commdr. C. P. STAPLES ; B. W. TUCKER ; N. J. WADLEY ; C. N. WALTER (*Hon. Treasurer*) ; A. WILLIAMS ; Col. O. E. WYNNE.

Guests :—Miss B. BANNERMAN ; Dr. HUDSON ; Miss D. OLDERSON ; Dr. PALMER ; Mrs. L. PALMER ; Miss P. TALBOT-PONSONBY ; Mr. RICHARDS ; Mrs. W. A. RICHARDS ; Miss V. RICHARDS ; D. J. SIMMONS ; Mrs. STAPLES ; Mrs. OLIVER STEEL ; Mrs. N. F. THOMAS ; Mrs. WADLEY ; Mrs. C. N. WALTER ; Mrs. A. WILLIAMS.

Members, 43 ; Guests, 16 ; Total, 59.

New races of the Cape Bunting from Southern Rhodesia and Basutoland.

Mr. Jack Vincent sent the following descriptions and specimens for exhibition :—

FRINGILLARIA CAPENSIS BASUTOENSIS, new race.

Description.—Greyer than any other South African race below, and owing to the lack of rufous coloration above appears generally darker than other races. Compared with *F. c. reidi* Shelley, the Basutoland birds are

predominantly grey rather than sandy. Unlike *F. c. reidi* they are not generally rufous below but very grey indeed, particularly on the chest and breast. The pale rusty hue of *F. c. reidi* appears only on the abdomen and there mainly towards its centre.

Distribution.—High mountain areas (the Quathlamba-Drakensberg) of southern, central, and eastern Basutoland.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult Male. Collected by Jack Vincent at the source of the Lekhalabaletsi river, Basutoland, 29° 18' S.—29° 25.5' E., at 9,600 feet, 25 July, 1949. Collector's No. 2531. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1950.12.2.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 83.5, exposed culmen 10, culmen from base 15, tail 69, tarsus 22, total length in flesh 161 mm.

FRINGILLARIA CAPENSIS PLOWESI, new race.

Description.—On the upper side most like nominate *F. capensis* (Linnaeus) at the other end of the cline, that is to say generally paler than all other races, but with a prominent striped pattern caused by the broad dark centres to the feathers. It differs completely from the nearby *F. c. limpopoensis* in lacking almost all rufous coloration, and in being only slightly sandy. Below it is paler than any race hitherto known, and again perhaps most like nominate *F. capensis*, although even paler than that race, and quite white in appearance. The throat is clear white, the breast greyish, and the abdomen no darker than creamy-white.

Distribution.—Southern Rhodesia—so far recorded only from the Matopos Hills area, near Bulawayo.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male. Collected by D. C. H. Plowes (as a compliment to whom this race is named) at the Matopos Research Station, near Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, at *circa* 4,600 feet, 24 April, 1949. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1950.12.1.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 77, exposed culmen 10.5, culmen from base 16, tail 62, tarsus 18 mm.

Remarks :—In order to determine the identity of some unusually dark Cape Buntings collected by myself on the high mountains of Basutoland, and of some unusually pale ones kindly collected at my request by Mr D. C. H. Plowes in the Matopos hills near Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, I have examined the material in the Transvaal Museum. I find that both the series mentioned, each of five birds, are so unlike anything hitherto obtained as to be worthy of description.

So far as the Basutoland birds are concerned, it is evident that they represent a distinct montane form. The Southern Rhodesian examples are interesting in that they partly fill the large gap in the distribution of the species between *F. c. vincenti* Lowe, Zobué, Portuguese East Africa-Nyasaland border and *F. c. limpopoensis* Roberts, Pretoria. It is also noteworthy that the Rhodesian birds are strangely white in coloration below, and bear no resemblance either to the rufous *F. c. limpopoensis* to

the south, or to the pure grey *F. c. vincenti* to the north. The gaps that now remain are still some 400 and 600 miles respectively south and north of the Matabeleland birds.

I also had occasion to examine specimens of the same species from South-western Africa in the Transvaal Museum, and find that I cannot agree with the distributions found in Robert's "Birds of S. Africa" 1940. From the material available I am quite unable to discriminate in any way between *F. c. ausensis* and *F. c. karasensis* Roberts; Aus, and Great Karas Mountains, S.W. Africa respectively. It was also noted that although examples of *F. c. bradfieldi* Roberts, Ann. Tvl. Mus. 12, 1928, p. 318: Waterberg, are in the main perhaps a little more rufous, some examples of *F. c. ausensis* are extremely difficult to distinguish from them, and one bird from Waterberg in the north of the range of the three races is even precisely like the type of *F. c. karasensis* described from an area to the south of *F. c. ausensis*.

So far as the birds from the Transvaal are concerned they are similar to *F. c. reidi* Shelley: Ingagane River, Newcastle, Natal, below, but taken by and large they show a more rufous tinge above. I consider that *F. c. limpopoensis* should be recognized, and that the present arrangement of the races is as follows:—

Fringillaria capensis capensis.—South-western Cape Province (Swelendam and Bredasdorp districts, west and north-west to the Olifants River).

F. c. klaverensis Roberts.—Little Namaqualand (Olifants to the Orange Rivers; examples from along the latter river—from Augrabies and Goodhouse show intergradation with *F. c. ausensis*).

F. c. ausensis.—Great Namaqualand (Orange River, northward to Seeheim, Aus and Windhoek; birds from the latter area are intermediate with *F. c. bradfieldi*).

F. c. bradfieldi.—Damaraland (Eronga Mts. and Waterberg areas).

F. c. media Sharpe.—Karoo and eastern districts of the Cape Province to the O.F.S., Griqualand West, and southern Bechuanaland. (Intergradation is evident with *F. c. basutoensis* in East Griqualand—at Matatiele—as well as at the lower altitudes in western Basutoland—at Teyateyaneng; and with *F. c. limpopoensis* on the north-west—at Vryburg and Gaborones).

F. c. basutoensis.—High mountain areas (the Quathlamba-Drakensberg) of southern, central, and eastern Basotland.

F. c. reidi.—Highveld areas of Northern Natal, southern and south-eastern Transvaal (Newcastle, Wakkerstroom, and Belfast).

F. c. limpopoensis.—Central, south-western, and western Transvaal (Modderfontein to Pretoria and Rustenburg; and known to extend north to the Zoutpansberg).

F. c. plowesi.—Southern Rhodesia (so far recorded only from the Matopos Hills area of Matabeleland, near Bulawayo).

F. c. vincenti.—Nyasaland and Northern Portuguese East Africa (Kirk Mts. of the Tete Province of Portuguese East Africa, and southern Nyasaland as far north as the Kota-Kota district; also known from Mirrote in the Mozambique Province of northern Portuguese East Africa.

On a race of the *Larus argentatus-fuscus* group new to the British Isles.

Colonel R. MEINERTZHAGEN exhibited a specimen and remarked:—

Yellow-legged Herring Gulls with mantles slightly darker than the British Herring Gull have frequently been reported in winter from the east coasts of Scotland and England but none had been obtained until last November when I saw three at St. Andrews, sitting together on the shore and not mixing with large parties of the British Herring Gull. I shot a specimen on November 19th, 1949, a male, wing 447 mm., tarsus 69 mm., culmen from feathers 59 mm. Colour of bill, Dull yellowish white, gonys red, tip greenish-yellow. Colour of legs, pale ivory flesh-white. Eyes, stone grey.

I think, without doubt, it is *Larus argentatus heuglini* Bree.

Bree (B. Europe, 2nd ed. 5. p. 58 1876) described this species from the coast of Somaliland, a winter bird and gives an excellent plate. Except, in the colour of the legs which are yellow according to Bree, my bird agrees very well with this plate. Bree's type, also a male, had a wing of 419 mm., culmen from feathers 51 mm. and tarsus 63 mm.

Saunders, Cat. Birds, B.M. 25. p. 255, describes this race under *Larus affinis* of Reinhardt 1853, the type of which is in the Copenhagen Museum and turns out to be *Larus a. argentatus*. Iredale, Bull. B.O.C., 31, p. 69, 1913 gives a name to Saunders' description, calling it *Larus fuscus antelius*, the type of which is in the British Museum and the type locality the River Ob in Western Siberia.

I have compared my St. Andrews bird with Iredale's type of *L. antelius* and taking into consideration that mine is a winter bird and Iredale's type is a summer bird, they agree well enough.

Both Hartert and Dwight considered *L. heuglini* a synonym of *Larus cacchinnans*: and *L. antelius* a synonym of *L. taimyrensis*. Stegmann regards *L. antelius* as a valid race, but throughout his paper (J.f.O. 1934) does not mention *L. heuglini*.

Comparing Stegmann's description with Bree's, I think there is little doubt than *L. antelius* and *L. heuglini* are the same bird.

The discrepancy in the colour of the legs of my St. Andrews bird and the definite "yellow" of Bree and Stegmann, can I think, be accounted for by the fact that though it is in adult plumage the soft parts may not yet have assumed adult colour, or the bird may have been in bad health or it may be due to diet which affects the soft parts. See also Glegg, Ibis pp. 92-95, 1943.

I am greatly indebted to Capt. Grant for much help in this identification.